# SENATE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR SENATE RULES COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR SENATE BILL 8

55TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2022

AN ACT

RELATING TO ELECTIONS; ALLOWING QUALIFIED RESIDENTS TO

PARTICIPATE IN CERTAIN STATEWIDE AND SPECIAL ELECTIONS;

AMENDING VOTER REGISTRATION AND UPDATES TO REGISTRATION

PROVISIONS; REPEALING AND REPLACING THE REGISTRATION AT VOTING

LOCATION PRIOR TO VOTING PROVISIONS; EXPANDING ONLINE VOTER

REGISTRATION OPPORTUNITIES; ALLOWING ELECTRONIC NOMINATING

PETITION SIGNATURES; PROVIDING THAT INMATES ARE ELIGIBLE TO

VOTE AND REGISTER TO VOTE UPON RELEASE AND CONFORMING THE

RESTORATION OF CITIZENSHIP PROVISION ACCORDINGLY; CREATING A

VOLUNTARY PERMANENT ABSENTEE VOTER LIST; REVISING PROVISIONS

RELATING TO MONITORED SECURED CONTAINERS; ENACTING THE NATIVE

AMERICAN VOTING RIGHTS ACT TO PROTECT POLLING PLACE ACCESS AND

ADDRESS OTHER ELECTION ISSUES INVOLVING VOTERS ON INDIAN

NATION, TRIBAL AND PUEBLO LAND; CLARIFYING PROCEDURES FOR THE

ACCEPTANCE OF VOTED MAILED BALLOTS; DECLARING THE DAY OF A

GENERAL ELECTION AND A REGULAR LOCAL ELECTION A SCHOOL HOLIDAY;
PROVIDING FOR A TRANSFER FROM THE EXCESS EXTRACTION TAXES
SUSPENSE FUND TO THE STATE ELECTION FUND; MAKING CONFORMING AND
TECHNICAL CHANGES; AMENDING, REPEALING AND ENACTING SECTIONS OF
THE NMSA 1978.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO:

SECTION 1. Section 1-1-7.2 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1973, Chapter 228, Section 5, as amended) is amended to read:

"1-1-7.2. PETITIONS--NOMINATIONS--SIGNATURES TO BE COUNTED.--

- A. A person who signs a nominating petition shall sign only one petition for the same office unless more than one candidate is to be elected to that office, and in that case, a person may sign not more than the number of nominating petitions equal to the number of candidates to be elected to the office.
- B. A person who signs a nominating petition shall indicate the person's registration address. If the person does not have a standard street address, the person may provide the mailing address as shown on the person's certificate of registration.
- C. A signature shall be counted on a nominating petition unless there is evidence presented that the petition does not provide the information required by the nominating .222610.3

petition for each person signing or the person signing:

- (1) is not a voter of the state, district, county or area to be represented by the office for which the person seeking the nomination is a candidate;
- (2) has signed more than one petition for the same office, except as provided in Subsection A of this section, and if the person has signed more than one petition for the same office and in the same election cycle, none of the challenged signatures from that person shall count toward the total number of signatures required for any candidate for that office;
- (3) has signed one petition more than once, in which case only one signature from that person shall count toward the total number of signatures required for that candidate for office;
- (4) in a primary election, is not of the same political party as the candidate named in the nominating petition as shown by the signer's certificate of registration; or
- (5) is not the person whose name appears on the nominating petition.
- D. The procedures set forth in this section shall be used to validate signatures on any petition required by the Election Code, except that Paragraph (4) of Subsection C of this section shall not apply to petitions filed by unaffiliated .222610.3

candidates or petitions filed by candidates of minor political parties.

E. No later than January 1, 2023, the secretary of state shall implement a secure internet application, in addition to the paper circulation process, to gather electronic signatures in accordance with rules developed by the secretary of state. The secure internet application shall provide for the ability to verify that a person signing the petition is a registered voter and is eligible to sign the petition for a particular candidate."

SECTION 2. Section 1-3-8 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1969, Chapter 240, Section 58, as amended) is amended to read:

"1-3-8. PRECINCT CHANGES--NOTICE AND PUBLICATION.--[A.]
Upon the adoption of any resolution, or upon the final action
of any district court upon a petition creating, abolishing,
dividing or consolidating any precinct, or changing any
precinct boundary, or changing any designated polling place,
the board of county commissioners shall:

 $[\frac{(1)}{A}]$  send a certified copy of the resolution or court order to the secretary of state and to the county chair of each of the major political parties; and

 $[\frac{(2)}{B}]$  B. publish once the resolution in a newspaper as provided in the Election Code.

[B. A polling place located on Indian nation, tribal or pueblo lands shall not be eliminated or consolidated .222610.3

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with other polling locations without the written agreement of the Indian nation, tribe or pueblo on which the polling place is located. ]"

SECTION 3. Section 1-4-2 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1969, Chapter 240, Section 60, as amended) is amended to read:

"1-4-2. REGISTRATION OF QUALIFIED RESIDENTS--[RIGHT TO VOTE IN PRIMARY] PARTICIPATION AS A VOTER IN CERTAIN STATEWIDE AND SPECIAL ELECTIONS. --

Any qualified resident of New Mexico shall be permitted within the provisions of the Election Code to submit a voter registration certificate in paper form, through the online voter registration portal provided by the secretary of state, electronically when conducting an in-person transaction at the motor vehicle division of the taxation and revenue department or as otherwise prescribed by the secretary of state. The certificate shall be processed by the county clerk in the same manner as for a qualified elector, but the qualified resident shall not become a voter nor be considered a voter except as provided by this section.

- If a qualified resident submits a voter registration certificate in accordance with the provisions of Subsection A of this section and pursuant to the requirements of Section 1-4-8 NMSA 1978, the qualified resident shall:
- become a voter upon the qualified resident's eighteenth birthday; or

(2) be considered a voter for the purpose of participation in [a] any statewide or special election where the qualified resident is seventeen and will turn eighteen on or before the day of the [statewide or special] next general election [or

- (3) be considered a voter for the purpose of participation in a political party primary election where the qualified resident will turn eighteen on or before the day of the general election immediately succeeding the primary election].
- qualified elector upon the resident's eighteenth birthday who obtains a license, permit or identification card from the motor vehicle division of the taxation and revenue department and who has not submitted a voter registration certificate pursuant to Subsection A of this section shall be sent a notification by the secretary of state advising the resident of the requirements and opportunity to register to vote and a uniform resource locator for a web page where the resident may submit a voter registration certificate online. When applicable, a notification shall be sent to a resident described in this subsection within the sixty days [following] before the resident's seventeenth birthday, when the resident obtained a license, permit or identification card from the motor vehicle division prior to the resident's seventeenth birthday and

[within thirty] at least forty-two days prior to each election in which the resident may vote in advance of the resident's eighteenth birthday."

SECTION 4. Section 1-4-5.5 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1975, Chapter 255, Section 78, as amended) is amended to read:

"1-4-5.5. REQUESTS FOR VOTER DATA, MAILING LABELS OR SPECIAL VOTER LISTS.--

- A. The county clerk or secretary of state shall furnish voter data, mailing labels or special voter lists only upon written request to the county clerk or the secretary of state and after compliance with the requirements of this section; provided, however, all requesters shall be treated equally in regard to the charges and the furnishing of the materials.
- B. In furnishing voter data, mailing labels or special voter lists, the county clerk or secretary of state shall not provide data or lists that include voters' social security numbers, codes used to identify agencies where voters have registered, a voter's day and month of birth or voters' telephone numbers if prohibited by voters.
- C. Each requester of voter data, mailing labels or special voter lists shall sign an affidavit that the voter data, mailing labels and special voter lists shall be used for governmental or [election and] election campaign purposes only and shall not be made available or used for unlawful purposes.

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#### Ε. As used in this section:

- "election campaign purposes" means relating in any way to a campaign in an election conducted by a federal, state or local government;
- "governmental purposes" means noncommercial purposes relating in any way to the structure, operation or decision-making of a federal, state or local government;
- "mailing labels" means prepared mailing labels of selected voters arranged in the order in which requested and providing only the name and address of the voter;
- "special voter list" means a prepared list (4) of selected voters arranged in the order in which requested; and
- (5) "voter data" means selected information derived from the voter file."
- **SECTION 5.** Section 1-4-5.7 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 2019, Chapter 67, Section 1, as amended) is repealed and a new Section 1-4-5.7 NMSA 1978 is enacted to read:
- "1-4-5.7. [NEW MATERIAL] REGISTRATION AT VOTING LOCATION PRIOR TO VOTING. --
- In addition to the provisions in Section 1-4-8NMSA 1978 providing for the closing of registration prior to an .222610.3

election, a qualified elector seeking to register to vote or update an existing certificate of registration in the state shall be allowed to do so at a voting location immediately before voting in that election after signing an affidavit under oath that the elector has not voted in the election in this state or elsewhere and as further provided in this section.

- B. During a statewide election, a qualified elector may register to vote or update an existing certificate of registration at the county clerk's office or any early or election day voting location; provided that the secretary of state shall establish procedures to ensure that a registration officer has an opportunity to review the information of a qualified elector who registers to vote or updates an existing certificate of registration immediately before the qualified elector votes.
- C. A voter whose political party affiliation on the voter's certificate of registration is with a major political party shall not be allowed to change party affiliation when updating an existing certificate of registration or registering to vote at a voting location immediately before voting in a primary election.
- D. During a special election, a qualified elector may register to vote or update an existing certificate of registration at the county clerk's office during the regular hours and days of business beginning on the twenty-eighth day .222610.3

preceding the election until 7:00 p.m. on election day; provided that the county clerk shall provide the voter with a ballot and balloting materials immediately after the qualified elector registers to vote or updates the existing certificate of registration.

- E. A qualified elector seeking to register to vote or update an existing certificate of registration pursuant to this section shall provide a physical form of identification that is issued by the federal government, a state government, a federally recognized Indian nation, tribe or pueblo or a New-Mexico-accredited educational institution and that:
- (1) contains the name of the qualified elector, which shall reasonably match the name provided on the certificate of registration;
- (2) contains a photograph of the qualified elector, which shall resemble the qualified elector;
- (3) need not contain an expiration date, and if it does, the expiration date is not required to be a date on or after the date of the election; and

### (4) shall either:

- (a) contain an address that matches the address provided for the certificate of registration; or
- (b) be accompanied by an original or copy of a utility bill, bank statement, government check, paycheck or other document issued by an educational institution .222610.3

or government, including a document issued by a federally recognized Indian nation, tribe or pueblo, dated within the ninety days prior to the qualified elector registering to vote or updating an existing certificate of registration and that contains the name of the qualified elector, which shall reasonably match the name provided on the certificate of registration, and an address that matches the address provided for the certificate of registration.

F. If a voting location does not have real-time synchronization with the voting data at the office of the county clerk, a voter desiring to update an existing certificate of registration or to register to vote shall be issued a provisional paper ballot. A provisional paper ballot issued pursuant to this section shall be qualified and tabulated once the county clerk determines that the voter did not vote any other ballot in the same election and if no challenge is successfully interposed."

SECTION 6. Section 1-4-5.8 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 2019, Chapter 67, Section 2) is repealed and a new Section 1-4-5.8 NMSA 1978 is enacted to read:

"1-4-5.8. [NEW MATERIAL] AUTOMATIC VOTER REGISTRATION-AUTOMATIC VOTER REGISTRATION UPDATES.--

A. In addition to the requirements of Section 1-4-47 NMSA 1978:

(1) a qualified elector registering to vote or .222610.3

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updating an existing certificate of registration when conducting a transaction to apply for or renew a driver's license or state-issued identification card:

(a) shall not be required to provide a second time any information that duplicates information required in the driver's license portion of the transaction; and

immediately at the conclusion of (b) each in-person transaction to apply for or renew a driver's license or state-issued identification card, shall receive written notification by the motor vehicle division of the taxation and revenue department informing the person if a voter registration transaction was processed and, if so, providing information regarding any voter registration transaction transmitted by the motor vehicle division of the taxation and revenue department as a result of that application for or renewal of a driver's license or state-issued identification card; and

if a voter provides an address different from the existing address of registration when conducting a transaction to apply for or renew a driver's license or state-issued identification card, the secretary of state shall send the voter a notice to the existing address of registration informing the voter that a new address was provided for the voter to the motor vehicle division of the taxation and revenue

department and that unless the voter returns the enclosed card within thirty days, the voter's certificate of registration will be updated with the new address. If, forty-five days after the notice was sent, no card is returned and the new address is:

(a) in the same county, the secretary of state shall send the information to the county clerk of the county where the voter is registered, who shall process a change to the official list of eligible voters in accordance with the change of residence information on the notice; or

(b) in another county, the secretary of state shall send the information to the county clerk of the county where the new address is located and the county clerk to whom the notice was forwarded shall process the change of residence as a transferred registration into the county.

B. In addition to the requirements of Section 1-4-48 NMSA 1978, the human services department shall develop procedures to be approved by the secretary of state to ensure that each benefit program administered by the department appropriately ensures that qualified electors receiving benefits are offered the opportunity to register to vote or update an existing certificate of registration without duplication of information contained by the department or by the secretary of state. No later than the last day of August of each calendar year, the human services department shall

issue an annual report detailing implementation of the requirements of this subsection. The report shall be sent to the legislative council service, the secretary of state and each county clerk.

C. If a person who is not a qualified elector becomes registered to vote pursuant to this section, that registration shall not be valid and the county clerk shall remove the certificate of registration from the register of voters."

SECTION 7. Section 1-4-18.1 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 2013, Chapter 91, Section 1, as amended) is amended to read:

"1-4-18.1. ONLINE VOTER REGISTRATION.--

A. A person may complete a certificate of registration in person or by mail. In addition, the secretary of state shall [not later than January 1, 2016] allow a voter to submit an update to an existing certificate of registration and [not later than July 1, 2017] allow a qualified elector to submit a new certificate of registration form electronically through a [web site] website authorized by the secretary of state or through any computer system maintained by a state agency for electronic voter registration that is approved by the secretary of state; provided that the person is qualified to register to vote and has a current or expired New Mexico driver's license or state identification card issued by the motor vehicle division of the taxation and revenue department.

B. An online certificate of registration form shall
contain all of the information that is required for a paper
form. The person shall $[also]$ be required to provide the
person's [full] social security number or New Mexico driver's
license number or state identification card number to access
the online certificate of registration form.

C. When a person submits a new certificate of registration or an update to an existing certificate of registration, the person shall mark the box associated with the following statement included as part of the electronic certificate of registration form:

"By clicking the boxes below, I swear or affirm all of the following:

 $\ \square$  I am the person whose name and identifying information is provided on this form, and I desire to register to vote in the state of New Mexico; and

 $\hfill\Box$  all of the information that I have provided on this form is true and correct as of the date I am submitting this form.".

D. [Prior to January 1, 2016] The secretary of state, in conjunction with the county clerks of the state, shall adopt rules establishing a uniform and nondiscriminatory process to match the information contained in the voter registration election management system with the database of the motor vehicle division of the taxation and revenue .222610.3

department or the federal social security administration for electronic certificates of registration updates completed pursuant to this section.

- E. [Prior to January 1, 2017] The secretary of state, in conjunction with the county clerks of the state, shall adopt rules establishing a uniform and nondiscriminatory process to match the information contained in the voter registration election management system with the database of the motor vehicle division of the taxation and revenue department or the federal social security administration for all electronic certificates of registration completed pursuant to this section.
- F. Electronically submitted certificate of registration application forms shall retain the dates of submission by the qualified elector and of acceptance by the county clerk.
- G. For purposes of deadlines contained in the Election Code, the time and date of the submission by the qualified elector shall be considered the time and date when the certificate of registration is received by the county clerk.
- H. The secretary of state shall ensure that the [web sites] websites used for electronic voter registration are secure and that the confidentiality of all users and the integrity of data submitted are preserved.

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I. No later than December 31, 2023, the secretary of state shall develop an application programming interface to allow approved third-party organizations to securely submit certificates of registration on behalf of qualified electors. The secretary of state shall adopt rules to implement this subsection."

SECTION 8. Section 1-4-27.1 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 2001, Chapter 46, Section 1, as amended) is repealed and a new Section 1-4-27.1 NMSA 1978 is enacted to read:

"1-4-27.1. [NEW MATERIAL] INMATES IMPRISONED FOR A FELONY INELIGIBLE TO VOTE OR REGISTER TO VOTE--ELIGIBILITY TO REGISTER TO VOTE UPON RELEASE. --

A voter is ineligible to vote while imprisoned in a correctional facility as a result of a conviction for a felony. Except as provided in this section, a qualified elector is ineligible to register to vote while imprisoned in a correctional facility as a result of a conviction for a felony. If the corrections department and the secretary of state have the technology to do so, at the time a person is admitted to a correctional facility under the jurisdiction of the corrections department as a result of a conviction for a felony, the corrections department shall notify the secretary of state by means of a secured electronic transmission of the inmate's name, date of birth and social security number. If the inmate has a certificate of registration on file in any county in this .222610.3

state, the secretary of state shall notify the appropriate county clerk, who shall cancel the inmate's certificate of registration.

B. At the time an inmate is preparing for release from a state correctional facility, if the inmate is a voter or qualified elector, the inmate shall be given an opportunity to register to vote or update an existing registration by means of a transaction with the motor vehicle division of the taxation and revenue department prior to the inmate's release from custody. If the inmate does not conduct a transaction with the motor vehicle division prior to the inmate's release from custody, the corrections department shall provide the inmate an opportunity to register to vote or update an existing registration by means of an online portal provided by the secretary of state or, if such a portal is not available, by providing a paper registration form.

C. The secretary of state shall maintain current in the voter registration electronic management system available information on the ineligibility status of an inmate to vote or register to vote pursuant to this section, as well as an inmate's eligibility status to vote upon release and to register to vote while preparing for release. Notwithstanding a person's status in the voter registration electronic management system, a voter or a qualified elector is presumed eligible to vote or register to vote pursuant to the provisions .222610.3

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of this section if the voter or qualified elector appears personally:

- (1) before a county clerk, the clerk's authorized representative or an election board member;
- at an office of the motor vehicle division (2) of the taxation and revenue department; or
- at a state agency that provides public assistance or services to persons with disabilities.
- D. The corrections department shall deliver to the secretary of state information and data necessary to carry out the provisions of this section. The secretary of state shall request from the United States attorney for the district of New Mexico, in conformance with 52 U.S.C. 20507(g), information and data as needed to carry out the provisions of this section."
- SECTION 9. A new section of the Absent Voter Act is enacted to read:

"[NEW MATERIAL] VOLUNTARY PERMANENT ABSENTEE VOTER LIST--PROCEDURES . --

A voter, except a federal qualified elector who is subject to the provisions of the Uniform Military and Overseas Voters Act or the Intimate Partner Violence Survivor Suffrage Act, may apply to be added to the voluntary permanent absentee voter list for the county in which the voter is registered by completing a paper or online application that conforms to the mailed ballot application requirements of

Section 1-6-4 NMSA 1978, except that the voluntary permanent absentee voter application shall provide an additional checkbox for the voter to affirm that reads:

"[] I am requesting to be added to the voluntary permanent absentee voter list in my county. This means that the county clerk shall automatically send a mailed ballot to the mailing address listed on my certificate of voter registration each time there is a statewide election that includes my precinct.".

- B. Upon receipt of an application from a voter requesting to be added to the voluntary permanent absentee voter list, the county clerk shall process the application in the same manner as an application for a mailed ballot, except that the county clerk shall not accept an application to be added to the voluntary permanent absentee voter list if the voter's mailing address on the certificate of registration is outside of New Mexico.
- C. Upon acceptance of the application to be added to the voluntary permanent absentee voter list, the county clerk shall add the voter's name to the voluntary permanent absentee voter list in the county. The voluntary permanent absentee voter list shall contain the voter's name, year of birth, address and precinct in the county.
- D. A voter whose name appears on the voluntary permanent absentee voter list shall remain on the list, except .222610.3

as provided in Subsection F of this section, and shall be sent a mailed ballot by the county clerk for each statewide election conducted that includes the precinct in which the voter is eligible to vote. The mailed ballot shall be sent in the first batch of mailed ballots delivered to voters in that election.

- E. At least forty-nine days before each statewide election, the county clerk shall send to each voter on the voluntary permanent absentee voter list a notice reminding the voter that the voter will be receiving a mailed ballot for that election. The notice shall also inform the voter of how to remove the voter's name from the voluntary permanent absentee voter list if the voter would like to do so. The notice shall be sent using non-forwardable mail with return postage prepaid.
- F. A voter shall be removed from the voluntary permanent absentee voter list by the county clerk for the following reasons:
- (1) the voter fails to return a mailed ballot in two consecutive elections, including at least one general election;
- (2) the county clerk has sent a mailed ballot or other piece of election mail to the voter's mailing address that was subsequently returned as undeliverable;
- (3) the voter's certificate of registration is canceled pursuant to the provisions of Chapter 1, Article 4
  NMSA 1978;

(4	) the v	ote	r updat	es 1	the	voter's	cert	ificate
of registration in	dicating	an	address	s th	nat :	is outsid	le of	the
county for which th	ne voter	is	listed	on	the	voluntai	су ре	rmanent
absentee voter list	; or							

- (5) the voter submits a written request to the county clerk requesting to be removed from the voluntary permanent absentee voter list.
- G. A county clerk shall take the necessary steps to attempt to contact and notify a voter who has been removed from the voluntary permanent absentee voter list. If a voter is removed from the voluntary permanent absentee voter list, the voter shall only be added again if the voter submits a new voluntary permanent absentee voter application.
- H. A county clerk shall maintain the voluntary permanent absentee voter list for the county and shall make the voluntary permanent absentee voter list available on request pursuant to the provisions in Section 1-4-5.5 NMSA 1978."

SECTION 10. Section 1-6-10 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1969, Chapter 240, Section 136, as amended) is amended to read:

"1-6-10. RECEIPT OF MAILED BALLOTS BY CLERK.--

[A. The county clerk shall mark on each completed official mailing envelope the date and time of receipt in the clerk's office, record this information in the absentee or mailed ballot register and safely keep the official mailing envelope unopened in a locked and number-sealed ballot box .222610.3

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until it is delivered to the proper election board, counted in the county canvass or canceled and destroyed in accordance with <del>law.</del>1

A. Completed official mailing envelopes that are received at the county clerk's office or a polling place or that are retrieved from the post office or a monitored secured container shall be accepted until 7:00 p.m. on election day. A completed official mailing envelope received after that time shall not be qualified or opened but shall be preserved by the county clerk for the applicable retention period provided in Section 1-12-69 NMSA 1978. The county clerk shall report the number of late ballots from voters, uniformed-service voters and overseas voters and report the number from each category to date on the final mailed ballot report and as part of the county canvass report. If additional late ballots are received, the county clerk shall update the number of late ballots from each category to the secretary of state.

B. On the day a returned mailed ballot is received by the county clerk, the county clerk shall mark the date of receipt on the outside of the official mailing envelope. Within one business day of receiving a returned official mailing envelope, the county clerk shall remove the privacy flap to verify that the voter signed the official mailing envelope and to confirm that the last four digits of the social security number provided by the voter match the information

available to the county clerk; provided that no county clerk or

deputy county clerk shall perform the verification process

pursuant to this subsection unless the county clerk or deputy

county clerk would also meet the requirements to be a

challenger, watcher or election observer pursuant to Paragraphs

(1) through (4) of Subsection C of Section 1-2-22 NMSA 1978.

C. If the voter's signature is present and the last four digits of the voter's social security number match, the county clerk shall note in the absentee ballot register that the information required to be provided by the voter under the privacy flap has been verified and shall safely keep the official mailing envelope unopened in a locked and number-sealed ballot box until it is delivered to the absent voter election board.

D. If either the voter's signature is missing or the last four digits of the voter's social security number are not provided or do not match, the county clerk shall make the appropriate notation in the absentee ballot register and shall safely keep the official mailing envelope unopened in a secured ballot box designated for those official mailing envelopes received that are missing the voter's signature or the last four digits of the voter's social security number or where the last four digits of the social security number do not match the information available to the county clerk. The county clerk shall immediately send the voter a notice to cure containing

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information regarding how the voter may provide documentation to cure the missing or incorrect information.

E. If, pursuant to Subsection F of Section 1-6-4 NMSA 1978, the voter was notified of the need to comply with federal identification requirements when returning the requested ballot and failed to comply, the county clerk shall preserve the inner envelope with the official mailing envelope and write "Rejected" on the front of the official mailing envelope, and the county clerk shall update the ballot register accordingly and immediately send the voter a notice to cure containing information regarding how the voter may provide the missing or incorrect information. The county clerk shall place the official mailing envelope with the attached inner envelope in a container provided for rejected ballots; provided that if the county clerk was required to open the inner envelope to determine that the required documentary identification was not included, the untallied ballot shall be returned to the inner envelope and preserved along with the official mailing envelope in a container for this purpose.

F. The voter may provide the missing or corrected information at any time up to the conclusion of the appeal process for rejected ballots. If a voter provides the missing or corrected information:

(1) before the absent voter election board has been convened, the county clerk shall attach the documentation .222610.3

to the unopened official mailing envelope, update the ballot register accordingly and transfer the ballot to the locked and number-sealed ballot box until it is delivered to the absent voter election board;

(2) after the absent voter election board has been convened, the county clerk shall attach the documentation to the unopened official mailing envelope, update the ballot register accordingly and transfer the ballot to the absent voter election board;

(3) after the adjournment of the absent voter election board but before the conclusion of the county canvass process, the county clerk shall attach the documentation to the unopened official mailing envelope, update the ballot register accordingly and transfer the ballot to an election board convened to assist in preparation of the county canvass report; and

(4) after approval of the county canvass

report, the voter may appeal in accordance with appeal

procedures for provisional ballots established by rule of the

secretary of state pursuant to Section 1-12-25.2 NMSA 1978.

[B.] G. In a statewide election, if the unopened official mailing envelope is received by the county clerk from an election board before the absent voter election board has adjourned, the unopened official mailing envelope shall be [logged and] transmitted to the absent voter election board to .222610.3

be tallied immediately. If the unopened official mailing envelope is received by the county clerk from an election board after the absent voter election board has adjourned, the unopened official mailing envelope shall be [logged and] transmitted to an election board convened to assist in preparation of the county canvass report to be tallied and included in the canvass report of that county for the appropriate precinct.

[C. Completed official mailing envelopes shall be accepted until 7:00 p.m. on election day.

after that time shall not be qualified or opened but shall be preserved by the county clerk for the applicable retention period provided in Section 1-12-69 NMSA 1978. The county clerk shall report the number of late ballots from voters, uniformed-service voters and overseas voters and report the number from each category to date on the final absentee ballot report and as part of the county canvass report. If additional late ballots are received, the county clerk shall update the number of late ballots from each category to the secretary of state.]"

SECTION 11. A new Section 1-11-12.2 NMSA 1978 is enacted to read:

"1-11-12.2. [NEW MATERIAL] MONITORED SECURED CONTAINERS-DISTRIBUTION TO COUNTIES.--

A. Each county shall have at least two monitored .222610.3

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request by a county clerk for additional monitored secured containers in a county.

B. In addition to the monitored secured containers provided pursuant to Subsection A of this section, a

secured containers. The secretary of state may approve a

provided pursuant to Subsection A of this section, a municipality, school district, community college or other political subdivision of the state may make a written request to the county clerk for one or more monitored secured containers on or near the boundaries of the municipality, school district, community college or other political subdivision of the state. A county clerk that receives a written request for monitored secured containers from a municipality, school district, community college or other political subdivision of the state shall evaluate the population in and near the area of the request, the distance voters have to travel to get to the nearest monitored secured container and the number of monitored secured containers and early voting locations on or near the area of the request. county clerk shall respond in writing to the municipality, school district, community college or other political subdivision within thirty days of receiving the written request. A written request for monitored secured containers for future statewide elections may be made between the second Tuesday in March and the second Tuesday in April of any year.

C. A municipality, school district, community
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college or other political subdivision of the state whose written request to a county clerk for monitored secured containers is denied may appeal that decision by submitting the written request along with the denial letter from the county clerk to the secretary of state, along with any response to the denial letter from the requesting political subdivision. The secretary of state may place a monitored secured container on or near an area that is the subject of the request in response to an appeal submitted pursuant to this subsection.

D. A monitored secured container located on or near the boundaries of a municipality, school district, community college or other political subdivision of the state shall comply with all requirements for monitored secured containers provided in the Election Code. If a monitored secured container is provided pursuant to this section, the requesting political subdivision shall provide the facility and services necessary for the monitored secured container."

**SECTION 12.** A new Section 1-21A-1 NMSA 1978 is enacted to read:

"1-21A-1. [NEW MATERIAL] SHORT TITLE.--Chapter 1, Article
21A NMSA 1978 may be cited as the "Native American Voting
Rights Act"."

**SECTION 13.** A new Section 1-21A-2 NMSA 1978 is enacted to read:

"1-21A-2. [NEW MATERIAL] DEFINITIONS.--As used in the .222610.3

Native American Voting Rights Act:

- A. "early voting location" means an alternate voting location and a mobile alternate voting location and includes early voting in the county clerk's office;
- B. "Indian nation, tribe or pueblo" means any federally recognized Indian nation, tribe or pueblo located wholly or partially in New Mexico;
- C. "polling place" means an early voting location
  and a voter convenience center;
- D. "voter convenience center" means an election day voting location; and
- E. "written request" means a request sent in writing by the president, governor or governing body of an Indian nation, tribe or pueblo, including a request sent by a person designated by the president, governor or governing body of an Indian nation, tribe or pueblo to submit written requests pursuant to the Native American Voting Rights Act; provided that the designation has been communicated in writing to the secretary of state and county clerk by the president, governor or governing body of the Indian nation, tribe or pueblo."

**SECTION 14.** A new Section 1-21A-3 NMSA 1978 is enacted to read:

## "1-21A-3. [NEW MATERIAL] PRECINCT BOUNDARIES.--

A. When adjusting precinct boundaries for any group of census blocks that are on Indian nation, tribal or pueblo .222610.3

lands, the board of county commissioners shall inquire of each Indian nation, tribe or pueblo in the county to provide internal and external political boundaries for the Indian nation, tribe or pueblo.

- B. The board of county commissioners shall adjust precinct boundaries to correspond to the internal and external political boundaries of each Indian nation, tribe or pueblo in the county.
- C. The secretary of state shall reject any precinct boundary maps that do not comply with the provisions of this section."
- SECTION 15. A new Section 1-21A-4 NMSA 1978 is enacted to read:
- "1-21A-4. [NEW MATERIAL] REQUESTS FOR POLLING PLACES AND MONITORED SECURED CONTAINERS.--
- A. An Indian nation, tribe or pueblo may submit a written request to a county clerk for locating early voting locations, voter convenience centers or monitored secured containers on or near the Indian nation's, tribe's or pueblo's lands.
- B. A written request for voter convenience centers for all statewide elections in the next election cycle shall be made between the second Tuesday in March and the second Tuesday in April of each even-numbered year.
- C. A written request for early voting locations for .222610.3

all statewide elections in the current election cycle shall be made between the second Tuesday in March and the second Tuesday in April of each odd-numbered year.

- D. A written request for early voting locations for the general election in that year by an Indian nation, tribe or pueblo that has not already done so shall be made between the first business day in January and the day the secretary of state issues the proclamation for the general election.
- E. A written request for monitored secured containers for future statewide elections may be made between the second Tuesday in March and the second Tuesday in April of any year."
- SECTION 16. A new Section 1-21A-5 NMSA 1978 is enacted to read:
- "1-21A-5. [NEW MATERIAL] VOTER CONVENIENCE CENTERS-REQUIREMENTS.--
- A. A county clerk who has received a written request from an Indian nation, tribe or pueblo for one or more voter convenience centers on or near Indian nation, tribal or pueblo land shall consider the request when submitting recommendations to the board of county commissioners for the biennial election day polling place resolution establishing voter convenience centers for the subsequent election cycle; provided that:
- (1) any voter of the county shall have access .222610.3

to and be permitted to vote at the alternate voting or mobile alternate voting location;

- (2) the location of the voter convenience center conforms to the requirements for voter convenience centers, except as specified in this section;
- (3) the county clerk provides federally mandated language translators at the alternate voting or mobile alternate voting locations; and
- (4) if the voter convenience center is located on Indian nation, tribal or pueblo land, the Indian nation, tribe or pueblo provides the facility and services for the alternate voting or mobile alternate voting location.
- B. In considering the written request, the county clerk shall evaluate the distance voters have to travel to get to the nearest voter convenience center and the number of monitored secured containers and early voting locations on or near the Indian nation, tribal or pueblo lands.
- C. At the time of submitting the election day polling place resolution to the board of county commissioners, the county clerk shall inform the board of county commissioners of any written requests received by an Indian nation, tribe or pueblo for a voter convenience center.
- D. Once the election day polling place resolution is adopted, a voter convenience center located on Indian nation, tribal or pueblo lands shall not be eliminated or .222610.3

consolidated with other voter convenience centers in that election cycle without the written agreement of the Indian nation, tribe or pueblo on whose lands the voter convenience center is located."

**SECTION 17.** A new Section 1-21A-6 NMSA 1978 is enacted to read:

"1-21A-6. [NEW MATERIAL] EARLY VOTING LOCATIONS-REQUIREMENTS.--

- A. A county clerk who has received a written request from an Indian nation, tribe or pueblo for one or more early voting locations shall provide at least one alternate voting or mobile alternate voting location on or near Indian nation, tribal or pueblo land; provided that:
- (1) any voter of the county shall have access to and be permitted to vote at the alternate voting or mobile alternate voting location;
- (2) the location of the alternate voting or mobile alternate voting location on Indian nation, tribal or pueblo land conforms to the requirements for alternate voting locations, except as specified in this section;
- (3) the county clerk provides federally mandated language translators at the alternate voting or mobile alternate voting locations;
- (4) the Indian nation, tribe or pueblo provides the facility and services for the alternate voting or .222610.3

mobile alternate voting location; and

(5) the alternate voting or mobile alternate voting location may operate for less than the full early voting period, to be decided upon between the Indian nation, tribe or pueblo and the county clerk.

B. When responding to a written request, the county clerk shall evaluate the population on the Indian nation, tribal or pueblo land, the distance voters have to travel and the number of monitored secured containers and early voting locations on or near the Indian nation, tribal or pueblo land."

**SECTION 18.** A new Section 1-21A-7 NMSA 1978 is enacted to read:

"1-21A-7. [NEW MATERIAL] MONITORED SECURED CONTAINERS-REQUIREMENTS.--

A. A county clerk who has received a written request from an Indian nation, tribe or pueblo for one or more monitored secured containers on or near Indian nation, tribal or pueblo land shall evaluate the population on the Indian nation, tribal or pueblo land, the distance voters have to travel and the number of monitored secured containers and early voting locations on or near the Indian nation, tribal or pueblo land. The county clerk shall respond in writing to the Indian nation, tribe or pueblo regarding the provision of monitored secured containers on or near Indian nation, tribal or pueblo land within thirty days of receiving the written request.

B. An Indian nation, tribe or pueblo whose written
request to a county clerk for monitored secured containers is
denied may appeal that decision by submitting the written
request along with the denial letter from the county clerk to
the secretary of state, along with any response to the denial
letter from the Indian nation, tribe or pueblo. The secretary
of state may place a monitored secured container on or near
Indian nation, tribal or pueblo land in response to an appeal
submitted by an Indian nation, tribe or pueblo.

C. A monitored secured container located on or near Indian nation, tribal or pueblo land shall comply with all requirements for monitored secured containers provided in the Election Code. If a monitored secured container is located on Indian nation, tribal or pueblo land, the Indian nation, tribe or pueblo shall provide the facility and services necessary for the monitored secured container."

SECTION 19. A new Section 1-21A-8 NMSA 1978 is enacted to read:

"1-21A-8. [NEW MATERIAL] USE OF GOVERNMENTAL AND OFFICIAL BUILDINGS AS MAILING ADDRESSES ON VOTER REGISTRATION

CERTIFICATES AND MAILED BALLOT APPLICATIONS.--

A. The secretary of state shall maintain a list of government and official buildings on Indian nation, tribal and pueblo land where members of the Indian nation, tribe or pueblo may request delivery of mailed ballots. The list shall include .222610.3

the common name for each building and the mailing address for the building. The list shall be provided by county to each county clerk with an Indian nation, tribe or pueblo in the county.

B. If a county clerk receives a voter registration certificate or an application for a mailed ballot that lists a government or official building on Indian nation, tribal or pueblo land by name only, the county clerk shall not reject the certificate or application for lack of a mailing address and, if the certificate or application is otherwise in the proper form, shall mail the ballot and balloting materials to the voter using the address for the government or official building."

SECTION 20. A new Section 1-21A-9 NMSA 1978 is enacted to read:

"1-21A-9. [NEW MATERIAL] EMERGENCY SITUATIONS.--If the president, governor or governing body of an Indian nation, tribal or pueblo has declared a state of emergency or has invoked emergency powers pursuant to other laws:

A. a polling place located on Indian nation, tribal or pueblo land shall not be eliminated or consolidated with other polling places, nor shall the days and times of voting be modified, without the written agreement of the Indian nation, tribe or pueblo;

B. no later than ninety-eight days before a .222610.3

statewide election by means of a written request or no later than forty-nine days before a statewide election with a court order, the county clerk shall provide to an Indian nation, tribe or pueblo that has not previously made a written request for that election cycle at least one alternate voting or mobile alternate voting location for that election; provided that the alternate voting or mobile alternate voting location shall otherwise comply with the requirements of Section 1-21A-6 NMSA 1978;

- C. no later than eighty-four days before a statewide election by means of a written request or no later than thirty-five days before a statewide election with a court order, the county clerk shall provide an election day polling place to an Indian nation, tribe or pueblo that does not already have an election day polling place within its boundaries if voters registered within the Indian nation, tribe or pueblo are unable to leave the Indian nation, tribe or pueblo during the time when voting occurs for a statewide election; and
- D. the requirement that a polling place be available to all voters in the county shall be waived if an Indian nation, tribe or pueblo is inaccessible or the borders are closed."

**SECTION 21.** A new Section 1-21A-10 NMSA 1978 is enacted to read:

# "1-21A-10. [NEW MATERIAL] EXPENSES.--

A. All necessary and reasonable expenses incurred by a county clerk for compliance with the Native American Voting Rights Act, including the costs of voting equipment and personnel for polling places and monitored secured containers on Indian nation, tribal or pueblo land, shall be paid for by the secretary of state or shall be reimbursed to the county by the secretary of state.

B. The secretary of state shall deposit from the state election fund sufficient funds to each county election fund for the costs related to compliance with the Native American Voting Rights Act, either as grants or reimbursement."

SECTION 22. Section 6-4-27 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 2020, Chapter 3, Section 4) is amended to read:

"6-4-27. EXCESS EXTRACTION TAXES SUSPENSE FUND--TRANSFER

OF EXCESS OIL AND GAS EMERGENCY SCHOOL TAX REVENUE--STATE

ELECTION FUND--TAX STABILIZATION RESERVE--EARLY CHILDHOOD

EDUCATION AND CARE FUND.--

- A. The "excess extraction taxes suspense fund" is created as a nonreverting fund in the state treasury. Money in the fund shall only be used to make transfers by the department of finance and administration as required by this section.
- B. At the end of each fiscal year, the department of finance and administration shall transfer the balance of the fund attributable to that fiscal year as follows:

(1) to the state election fund, the amount necessary to bring the state election fund to a level equal to twenty million dollars (\$20,000,000), counting for these purposes only state funds previously deposited into the state election fund for operating fund purposes; provided that, if the balance in the excess extraction taxes suspense fund is not sufficient to meet that level, the entire balance shall be transferred to the state election fund;

Paragraph (1) of this subsection, to the tax stabilization reserve, the amount necessary to bring the balance of state reserves to a level equal to twenty-five percent of the aggregate recurring appropriations for that fiscal year from the general fund, as determined by the department; provided that, if the remaining balance in the excess extraction taxes suspense fund is not sufficient to meet that level, the entire remaining balance shall be transferred to the tax stabilization reserve; and

[(2)] (3) after the transfer is made pursuant to Paragraph (2) of this subsection, to the early childhood education and care fund, the balance remaining in the excess extraction taxes suspense fund, if any [after the transfer is made pursuant to Paragraph (1) of this subsection].

C. As used in this section, "state reserves" means the general fund balances, as determined by the department of .222610.3

finance and administration, including all authorized revenues and transfers to the general fund and balances in the appropriation contingency fund, the general fund operating reserve, the state-support reserve fund, the tax stabilization reserve and the tobacco settlement permanent fund."

SECTION 23. Section 22-2-8.1 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1986, Chapter 33, Section 2, as amended by Laws 2011, Chapter 35, Section 1 and by Laws 2011, Chapter 154, Section 1) is amended to read:

### "22-2-8.1. SCHOOL YEAR--LENGTH OF SCHOOL DAY--MINIMUM.--

- A. Except as otherwise provided in this section, regular students shall be in school-directed programs, exclusive of lunch, for a minimum of the following:
- (1) kindergarten, for half-day programs, two and one-half hours per day or four hundred fifty hours per year or, for full-day programs, five and one-half hours per day or nine hundred ninety hours per year;
- (2) grades one through six, five and one-half hours per day or nine hundred ninety hours per year; and
- (3) grades seven through twelve, six hours per day or one thousand eighty hours per year.
- B. Up to thirty-three hours of the full-day kindergarten program may be used for home visits by the teacher or for parent-teacher conferences. Up to twenty-two hours of grades one through six programs may be used for home visits by .222610.3

the teacher or for parent-teacher conferences. Up to twelve hours of grades seven through twelve programs may be used to consult with parents to develop next step plans for students and for parent-teacher conferences.

- C. Nothing in this section precludes a local school board from setting a school year or the length of school days in excess of the minimum requirements established by Subsection A of this section.
- D. The secretary may waive the minimum length of school days in those school districts where such minimums would create undue hardships as defined by the department as long as the school year is adjusted to ensure that students in those school districts receive the same total instructional time as other students in the state.
- E. Notwithstanding any other provision of this section, provided that instruction occurs simultaneously, time when breakfast is served or consumed pursuant to a state or federal program shall be deemed to be time in a school-directed program and is part of the instructional day.
- F. Every general election and regular local election shall be a school holiday for students and staff at each public school in this state."
- SECTION 24. Section 31-13-1 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1963, Chapter 303, Section 29-14, as amended) is amended to read:
  - "31-13-1. FELONY CONVICTION--RESTORATION OF

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[A. A person who has been convicted of a felony shall not be permitted to vote in any statewide, county, municipal or district election held pursuant to the provisions of the Election Code, unless the person:

(1) has completed the terms of a suspended or deferred sentence imposed by a court;

(2) was unconditionally discharged from a correctional facility under the jurisdiction of the corrections department or was conditionally discharged from a correctional facility under the jurisdiction of the corrections department and has completed all conditions of probation or parole;

(3) was unconditionally discharged from a correctional facility under the jurisdiction of a federal corrections agency or was conditionally discharged from a correctional facility under the jurisdiction of a federal corrections agency and has completed all conditions of probation or parole; or

(4) has presented the governor with a certificate verifying the completion of the sentence and was granted a pardon or a certificate by the governor restoring the person's full rights of citizenship.

B. When a person has completed the terms of a suspended or deferred sentence imposed by a court for a .222610.3

felony conviction, the clerk of the district court shall
notify the secretary of state. The secretary of state shall
notify all county clerks that the person is eligible for
registration.

C. A person who has served the entirety of a sentence imposed for a felony conviction, including a term of probation or parole shall be issued a certificate of completion by the corrections department. Upon issuance, the corrections department shall inform the person that the person is entitled to register to vote. The certificate of completion shall state that the person's voting rights are restored.

person a certificate of completion, the corrections

department shall notify the secretary of state that the

person is entitled to register to vote. The secretary of

state shall notify all county clerks that the person is

eligible for registration. Additionally, a county clerk

shall accept the following documents as proof that a person

has served the entirety of the sentence for a felony

conviction and is eligible for registration:

(1) a judgment and sentence from a court of this state, another state or the federal government, which shows on its face that the person has completed the entirety of the sentence;

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# (3) a certificate of completion from another state or the federal government.

E.] A person who has been convicted of a felony shall not be permitted to hold an office of public trust for the state, a county, a municipality or a district, unless the person has presented the governor with a certificate verifying the completion of the sentence and was granted a pardon or a certificate by the governor restoring the person's full rights of citizenship."

SECTION 25. REPEAL.--Sections 1-3-7.2 and 1-6-5.8 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 2021, Chapter 107, Section 1 and Laws 2009, Chapter 251, Section 2, as amended) are repealed.

#### SECTION 26. EFFECTIVE DATE. --

A. The effective date of the provisions of Sections 1, 2, 4, 5, 8, 10 through 22, 24 and 25 of this act is July 1, 2022.

B. The effective date of the provisions of Sections 3, 6, 7, 9 and 23 of this act is January 1, 2023.

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